

Discussion Questions

To follow the Chalk Talk or a field trip to Padilla Bay

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0HKPjRUVQ0&feature=youtu.be>

1. How did the estuary change over time?
2. Did you notice that the estuary did not change very much from 7,000 B.C. to 1797? How long is that? How long has it been since 1797 to today? Most of the changes in the story happened after 1797. How do you explain that?
3. At the end of the story, "the estuary is being used by many different people in different ways." What are some of the different ways it is being used? Are any of these uses in conflict with each other? By this I mean, if one activity increases, does that make another activity decrease? Try to guide the discussion toward identifying gains, losses and changes rather than good vs. bad.
4. Because of these changes, estuaries are not as healthy as they used to be. For instance, we have fewer salmon, orcas and some other animals. One of the reasons for this is loss of habitat. Another big reason is that we have so many cars on the roads. We also have a lot fewer trees in the watershed. We use too much water and some of the water that goes down the drain has toxic chemicals in it that can't get cleaned up in a sewage treatment plant. And we make too much garbage. What are some of the things that kids your age could do to reduce these hazards? Make a list and send it to me. Even better, if any students are willing to actually do one or more things on the list, have them write me a note about it:
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